to improve production of oilseeds in the country and to strengthen co-operatives among oilseeds producers by donating gift oil (crude rapeseed oil) through Cooperative Union of Canada (CUC) to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). This is implemented through NDDB's project "Restructuring edible oil and oilseeds production and marketing". The project is in\ operation since 1980-81 and the NDDB has so far received 'Gift Oil' worth 95 million Canadian dollars. A memorandum of understanding (M.O.U.) was signed between the Government of Canada and Government of India in July, 1983 which was subsequently amended in July, 1986, and January, 1987. As per the M.O.U. signed between the two Governments there is a provision for evaluation, monitoring and technical assistance to the tune of 1, million Canadian dollars.

The funds generated through the sale of gift oil are being used for implementation of the project in selected areas of North Gujarat, Orissa and Maharashtra through Co-operative Organisations.

Proposal to settle the Cauvery water dispute

2832. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering proposals to bring down the differences between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu so as to find an early amicable solution to the Cauvery water dispute between the two States;

(b) if so, to what extent the Central Government have been able to narrow down the differences between the two States; and

(c) what are the measures being taken by the Central Government in this regard with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Efforts are being continued to resolve the differences between the States with a view to finding an amicable solution to the Cauvery Water Dispute.

Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh for drought and hail storm

2833. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the financial assistance given to the State of Madhya Pradesh during the current financial year to meet the ill effects of the drought conditions prevailing in certain parts of the State;

(b) what was the demand of the State Government and what were the recommendations of the Central Study Team in this regard; and

(c) whether any similar assistance has been given to meet the exigencies arising out of the damage caused by hail storm during the last three years, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted two memoranda during 1986-87 seeking Central assistance for drought relief. On the basis of reports of Central Teams and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, ceilings of expenditure

have been approved so far for drought relief as per details given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

	Central assistance sought by the State Government	Ceiling of expenditure approved
1st Memorandum	67.60	10·70
2nd Memorandum	162.88 (Including Rs. 75·99 crores for 1987-88)	18·28 (Including Rs. 6 28 crores for 1987-88)

(c) In response to memorandum received in March, 1986 from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for relief measures in the areas affected by hailstorm during February, 1986, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 2.29 crores was approved on 13-6-86. No Central assistance has been approved for hailstorms during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has now submitted a memorandum in February, 1987 seeking Central assistance in the wake of hailstorms which occurred in December, 1986 and January, 1987.

House sites for low and middle income group

2834. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 50 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to provide house sites to low and middle income groups; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to the rise in the land price for house sites, the small and middle income groups are not able to purchase house sites at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Housing is a State subject and social housing schemes meant for various categories including low and middle income groups are formulated and implemented by the State Governments as per Plan priorities and their requirements.

(b) There has been an increase in the land prices during the past few years. The State Housing Agencies, however, have special housing schemes at affordable prices for low income and middle income groups.

Conversion of Girls to Devdasis in Karnataka

2835. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report that appeared in the Times of India of 16th February, 1987 to the effect that one thousand girls have been converted to 'devdasis' in Karnataka despite the Anti-Devdasi Act;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have asked the Karnataka Government to submit a report on this account; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from the State Government of Karnataka.